

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, GW

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING GUILLAUME TRIAL

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED THE FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF EAST GERMAN SPY GUENTHER GUILLAUME WITH THE WEST GERMAN AUTHORITIES. THEY TELL US THAT THEY EXPECT THE TRIAL SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 24 TO BE POSTPONED, AND CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, GUILLAUME'S WIFE HAS NOT FURNISHED INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM. THE AUTHORITIES ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY HAVE A STRONG ENOUGH CASE TO CONVICT HIM AND EXPECT THAT HE WILL RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE. NEITHER SPD NOR OPPOSITION POLITICIANS BELIEVE THAT THE TRIAL WILL PRODUCE REVELATIONS OF FAR REACHING DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. THE EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED THE FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF ACCUSED EAST GERMAN SPY GUENTHER GUILLAUME WITH THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES. THEY TOLD US THAT IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE TRIAL, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 24, WILL BE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF ILLNESS OF ONE OF THE KEY PROSECUTION TEAM MEMBERS. THE BUNDESKRIMINALAMT (BKA) IS CONFIDENT THAT THEY HAVE A STRONG ENOUGH CASE TO CONVICT GUILLAUME AND EXPECT THAT HE WILL RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE (E.G., 5 YEARS TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT).

2. THE AUTHORITIES TELL US THAT CONTRARY TO PRESS  
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REPORTS, GUILLAUME'S WIFE HAS NOT FURNISHED THE WEST

GERMAN AUTHORITIES WITH INFORMATION WHICH WOULD INCRIMINATE HER HUSBAND NOR HAS SHE INSTITUTED DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS. SHE HAS BEEN RETICENT AND ALTHOUGH THE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE INDICATED THAT SHE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION TO THE EAST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (E.G., ALLEGEDLY A FRIEND SAW HER AT A MEETING (TREFF) DURING THE TRIP TO NORWAY WHEN GUILLAUME ACCOMPANIED THEN CHANCELLOR BRANDT), WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LEARN JUST HOW STRONG THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE IS AGAINST HER.

3. THE WEST GERMAN AUTHORITIES DO NOT EXPECT THAT NEW EMBARRASSING INFORMATION ABOUT BRANDT WILL BE DISCLOSED BY GUILLAUME DURING THE TRIAL. HOWEVER, THEY DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY. THEY EXPECT THERE WILL BE SOME POLITICAL FALLOUT WHEN PROMINENT POLITICAL PERSONALITIES APPEAR AS WITNESSES DURING THE TRIAL.

4. TWO PROSECUTION LEGAL EXPERTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE MATERIAL PASSED BY GUILLAUME TO THE EGIS FALLS UNDER THE CATEGORY OF HIGH TREASON AND ESPIONAGE (HOCHVERRAT AND LANDESVERRAT) AS DEFINED BY THE FRG CONSTITUTION. INCLUDED IN THE INFORMATION GUILLAUME REPORTED TO THE EGIS WAS THE OVERALL HEALTH CONDITION OF BOTH BRANDT AND WEHNER.

5. THE CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION (BFV), GUENTHER NOLLAU, WHO CAME UNDER SEVERE CRITICISM FROM THE OPPOSITION FOR HIS ROLE IN THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR, RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS APPLIED FOR EARLY RETIREMENT IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR.

6. COMMENT: GERMAN POLITICIANS IN BOTH THE SPD AND THE OPPOSITION DO NOT EXPECT THE GUILLAUME TRIAL TO PROVIDE ANY POLITICAL BOMBSHELLS AND THEREFORE THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE IS MUCH ADDITIONAL POLITICAL MILEAGE TO BE GAINED FROM THE AFFAIR. HOWEVER, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT PRESS AND THE OPPOSITION WILL USE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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OCCASION OF THE TRIAL TO REHASH THE CRITICISM OF BRANDT AND OTHER SPD POLITICIANS INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR. BRANDT'S RESIGNATION AS CHANCELLOR LAST YEAR, AND NOLLAU'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN EARLY RETIREMENT WILL PROBABLY SERVE TO REDUCE THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE AFFAIR.  
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